Martine Jacobs (Amsterdam, 1956)

Pioneer of Digital & Pastel Art (1998–2006)

Artist Biography

Martine Jacobs is a Dutch pastel artist and early digital art pioneer whose practice unites craftsmanship, spirituality, and social engagement. Working primarily with pastel pencils and chalk, she creates emotionally charged drawings that capture not only images, but also narratives and inner states of being. After studying at the Wackers Academy in Amsterdam, Jacobs developed a distinctive figurative style spanning dreamlike landscapes, still lifes, and characterful animal portraits. Her work often addresses social and spiritual themes, such as compassion, freedom, and collective grief, as reflected in her 9/11 pastel series. She gained international recognition during the 1990s and 2000s with exhibitions in Barcelona, Berlin, Osaka, and Saint Petersburg, and was invited to participate in the Florence Biennale. Her works are represented in private and institutional collections, including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Parallel to her pastel practice, Jacobs was among the first Dutch female artists to embrace the internet as a platform. From 1998–2006, she created pioneering digital series such as *The Woman Cries Blood* and her Buddha works. Her early websites attracted more than 100,000 visitors, placing her among the first generation of net-based artists.

Archival Relevance

Jacobs' oeuvre occupies a unique position at the intersection of traditional figurative pastel and early digital art. Her work highlights the transition period where digital experimentation began to merge with established artistic mediums. Key points of archival value: - Among the earliest Dutch women to adopt internet-based art presentation. - Documented international online exhibitions between 2000–2005. - Pioneering digital works (*The Woman Cries Blood*, Buddha series) created between 1998–2006. - Proven audience engagement with over 100,000 website visitors in the early 2000s. - Figurative, socially engaged themes relevant to broader cultural history.

Key Works

The Woman Cries Blood (2000–2001)
A landmark early digital work addressing themes of compassion, grief, and spirituality.

Buddha Digital Series (1998–2006)
A collection of 30+ works exploring Buddhism, meditation, and inner reflection, combining early computer art with painterly sensibility.

Shared Grief / 9-11 Pastel Series (2001–2002)
Pastel drawings reflecting collective mourning after September 11, blending realism with deep emotional resonance.

Exhibitions & Online Shows

Highlights include: - International exhibitions in Barcelona, Berlin, Osaka, and Saint Petersburg. - Invitation to Florence Biennale. - Early 2000s online exhibitions hosted on dedicated websites, attracting over 100,000 visitors. For a complete overview of exhibitions and media shows, please see attached dossier.

Closing & Contact

“Art, to me, is not just aesthetics — it is a bridge to the inner life.” Martine Jacobs Email: [insert email] Website: [insert website] The Art Cabinet of Martine and Hans Jacobs